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Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 10:32 AM

To: Superintendent

Cc: John Deocampo

Subject: History Social Sciences Curriculum Framework (Full implementation of AB 199)

Dear Superintendent Tom Torlakson:

On behalf of the Veterans Equity Center, I support the Bataan Legacy Historical Society's recommendations to the history- social sciences curriculum framework for Grades 10 and 11.

Seventy years ago the Philippines (U.S. colony from 1898-1946) and its people were called upon to put up a gallant fight against the Empire of Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. The United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFEF), who suffered massive diseases and starvation as a result of the Europe First Policy, were able to disrupt the timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army of 52 days and defended the Bataan Peninsula for 99 days. After the conditional release of majority of the Filipino soldiers, they joined the guerrilla movements which laid down the foundation for the eventual liberation by the Allied Forces. By the end of the war, one million civilians had perished in the Philippines and its capital, Manila, once considered as the Pearl of the Orient, became the most ravaged city in the world next to Warsaw, Poland.

Despite their great sacrifice, the Filipino soldiers who served equally with their American brothers under the command of USAFFE were denied their veterans' rights and benefits after the passage of the First and Second Rescission Acts in 1946.

To this date, these rights have not been fully-restored and a majority of these WWII Filipino soldiers have passed on without seeing justice prevail.

Today we have an opportunity to set the record straight by putting this seminal point of WWII history in the curriculum framework of California; we at the Veterans Equity Center urge you and the State Board of Education to fully implement AB199 and to ensure that this historical framework will accurately portray the sacrifices of the Filipino and American soldiers and an entire nation during World War II.

Sincerely,
Luisa M. Antonio
Executive Director
Veterans Equity Center